

Suggested Talking Points
Rolf Anderson
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Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvest (FISH) Learning Event
Crown Regency Hotel, Cebu City
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- Magandang umaga!
- I am honored to interact with all of you – partners from the local government units (LGUs), national government agencies, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and peoples’ organizations – each and everyone who has actively participated in the FISH project implementation over the past seven years.
Maraming salamat po!
- I commend you all for taking time to share experiences and participate in this learning event: “Sustainable Municipal Fisheries: Gains and Continuing Challenges in Local Governance” – a theme that deserves significant attention as the FISH project winds up its operations and the task of sustaining the gains and momentum is crucial.
- From the presentations and sharing, it is apparent that the local governments and partners in the frontline play critical roles in addressing the environmental degradation and unsustainable resource use. Your initiatives demonstrate the need for local solutions to global problems such as the decline of fish population and marine biodiversity. USAID is excited to hear your stories and delighted to have been part in setting in motion a set of solutions to address fisheries management concerns in your areas.
- What you shared today illustrates that the problem of fish stock decline is not insurmountable. That there is hope if we collaborate

with one another, share our resources and talents and be mindful that each one of us can contribute to coastal and marine biodiversity conservation. But noting that fisheries decline is a global phenomenon, we need to scale up and sustain fisheries management. If we have demonstrated our successes in the four project sites of FISH, could we scale up and replicate these efforts to other parts of the country?

- It is in this context that while a successful project like FISH comes to an end, USAID Philippines continues to explore avenues and partnerships with the Philippine government to support initiatives that will strategically spread your gains in a larger national or even regional scale. This is why the US government supports the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) – a regional inter-government initiative covering 6 countries in the Southeast Asia and the Pacific namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Your gains here will tremendously contribute to this regional initiative to manage fisheries and its related ecosystems.
- In closing, I want to congratulate all of you in behalf of USAID/ Philippines for a job well done and for very enriching partnerships. I wish you all the best in your future undertakings on fisheries management.
- Thank you and mabuhay!